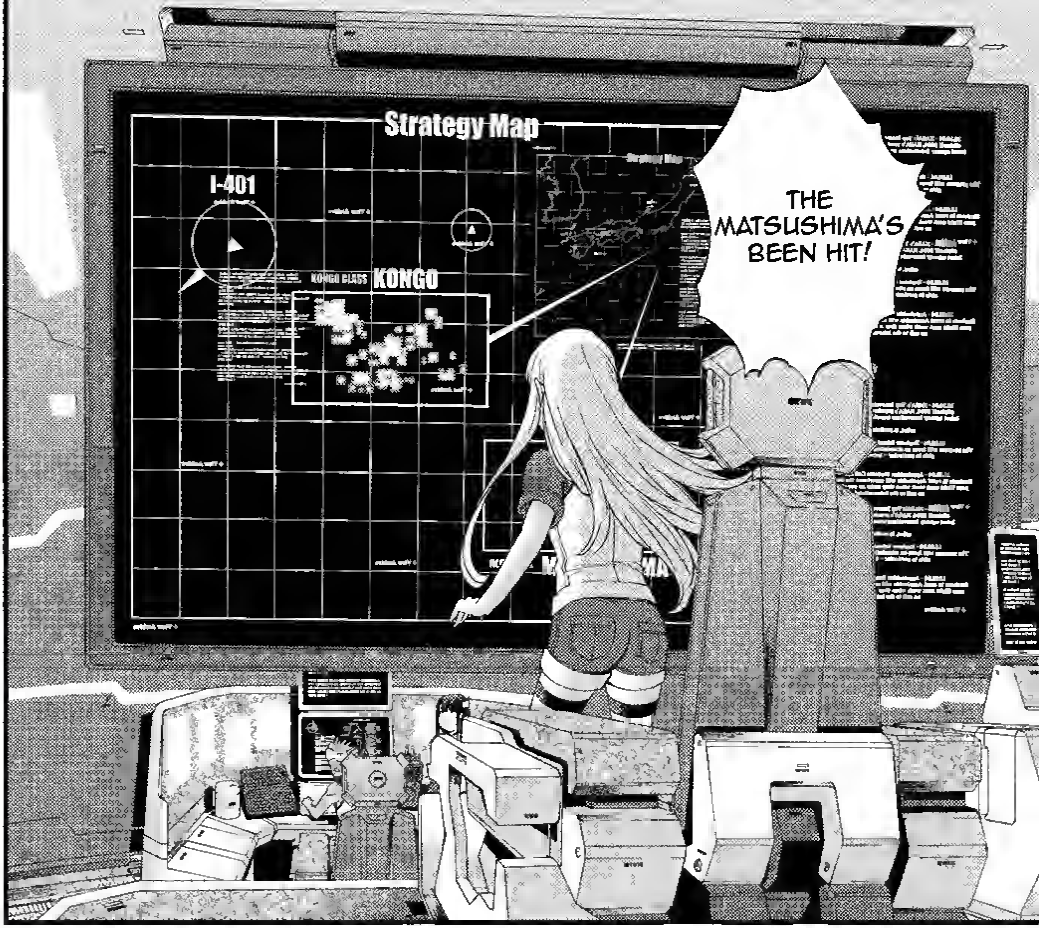
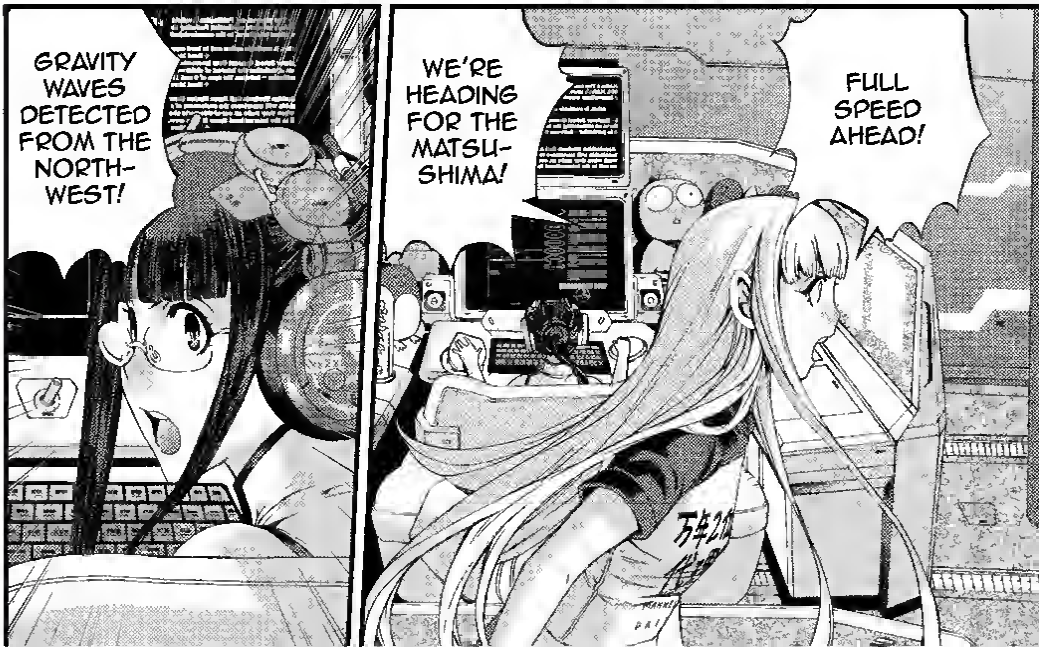
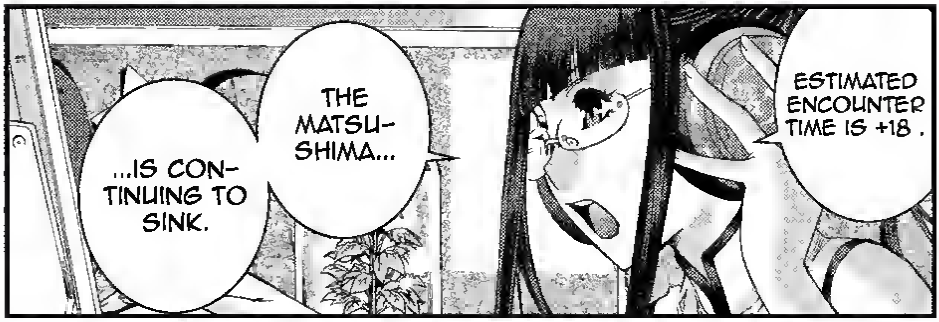
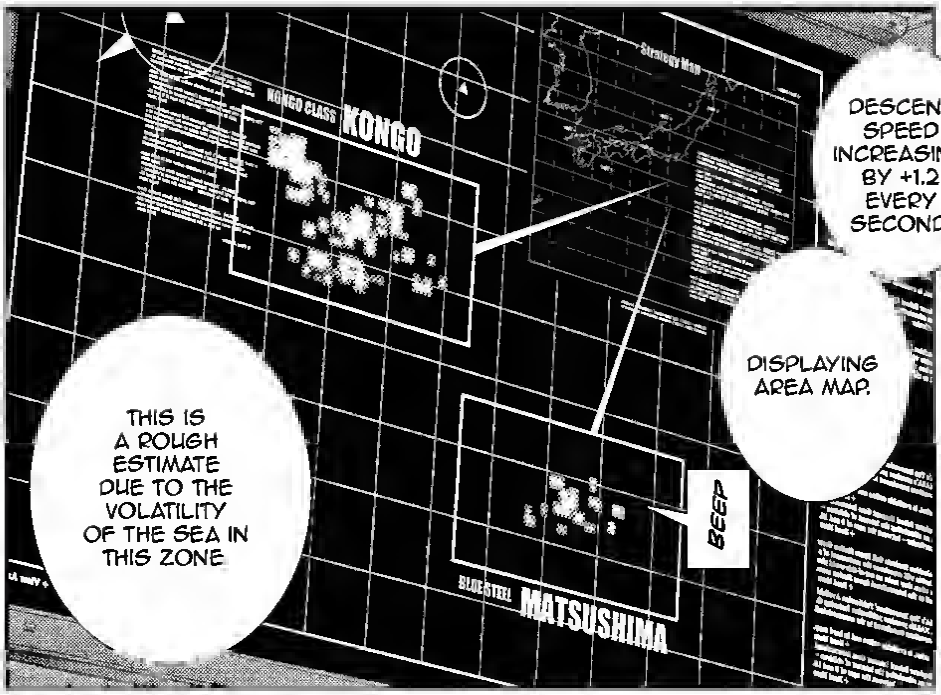
Depth:073
GWOOOM
GUNZOU!

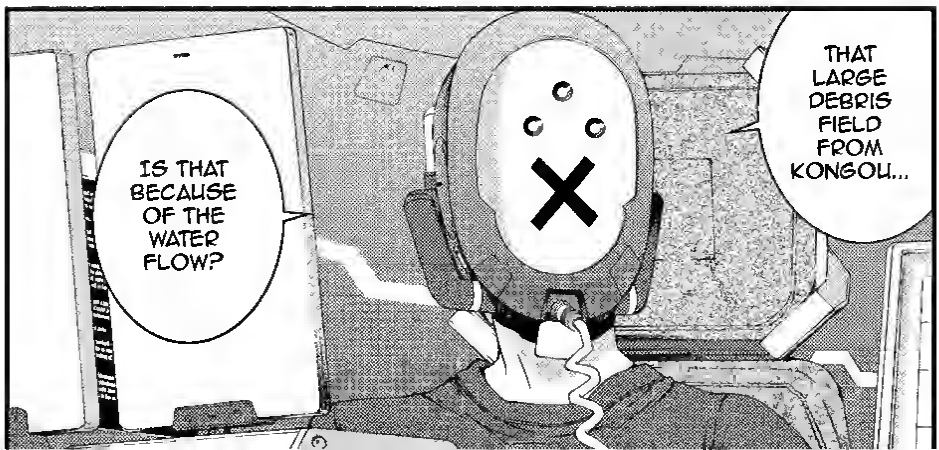

Strategy Map
I-401
KONGO CLASS
KONGO
THE MATSUSHIMA'S BEEN HIT!


GRAVITY WAVES DETECTED FROM THE NORTH-WEST!
WE'RE HEADING FOR THE MATSU-SHIMA!
FULL SPEED AHEAD!

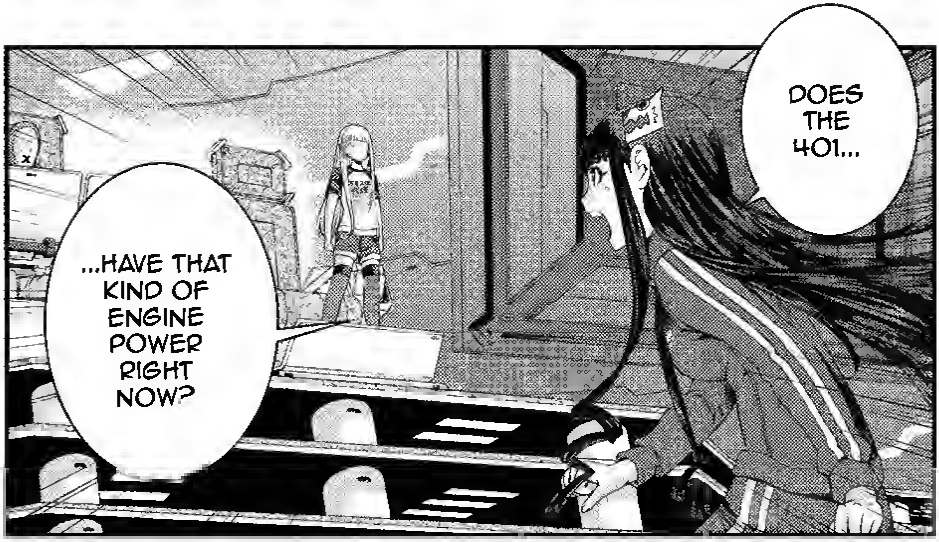
A NEW FLEET IS APPROACH-ING!
CLENCH
REIN-FORCE-MENTS?
THE TACTICAL NETWORK SAYS...
...THAT IT'S A DESTROYER FLEET SENT BY MUTSU FROM PATROL FLEET 1, IN PLACE OF KONGOU.


ESTIMATED ENCOUNTER TIME IS +18 .
THE MATSU-SHIMA...
...IS CON-TINUING TO SINK.


DESCENT SPEED INCREASING BY +1.2 EVERY SECOND.
DISPLAYING AREA MAP.
BEEP
THIS IS A ROUGH ESTIMATE DUE TO THE VOLATILITY OF THE SEA IN THIS ZONE
KONGO CLASS KONGO
BLUE STEEL MATSUSHIMA


THAT LARGE DEBRIS FIELD FROM KONGOU...
IS THAT BECAUSE OF THE WATER FLOW?

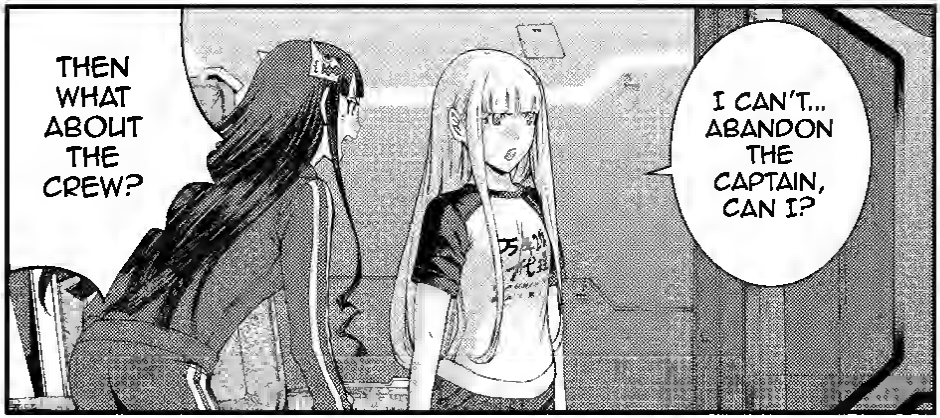
KONGO CLASS
KONGO
IT'S HEADING FOR THE MATSUSHIMA, ISN'T IT?
...
WAIT!
DASH
PREPARE ANCHOR! WE'LL TOW THE MATSUSHIMA OUT!
IT'S POSSIBLE IT MAY COLLIDE...


DOES THE 401...
...HAVE THAT KIND OF ENGINE POWER RIGHT NOW?

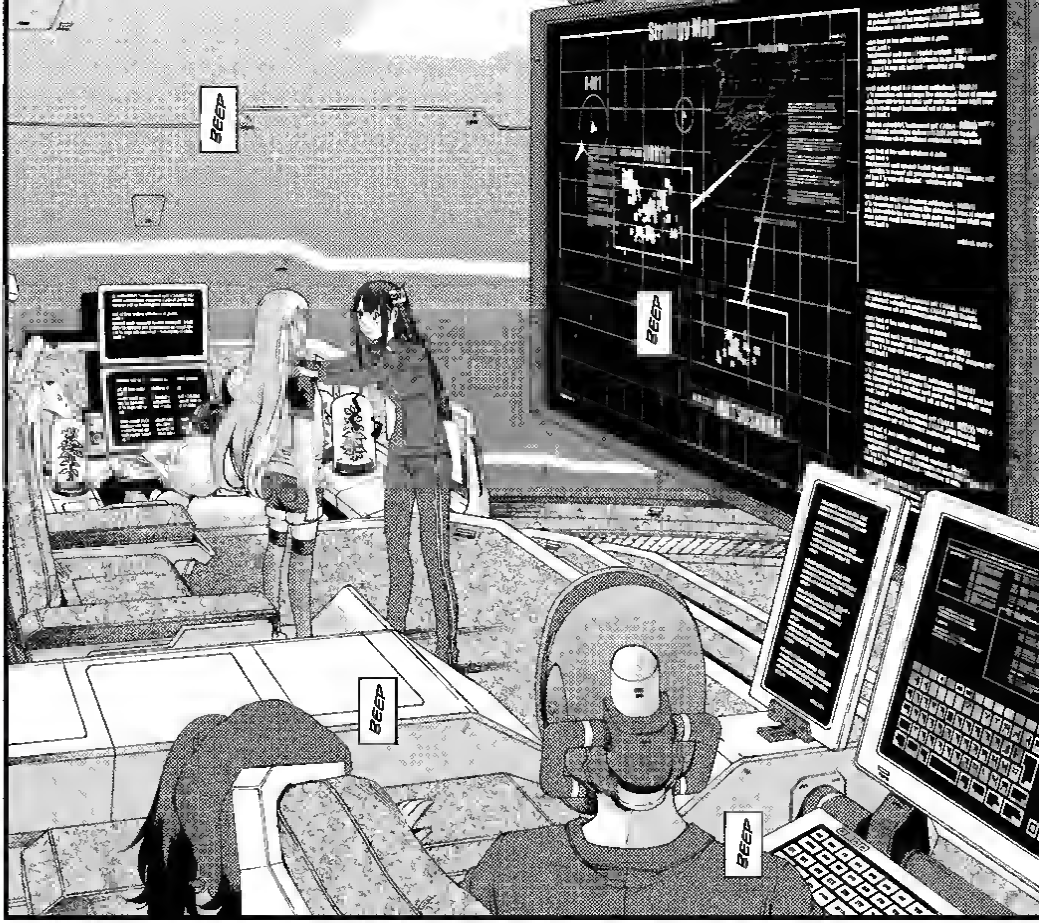
...

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO LIFT SOMETHING THAT HEAVY?
I'M AN IDIOT, AND EVEN I KNOW THAT!

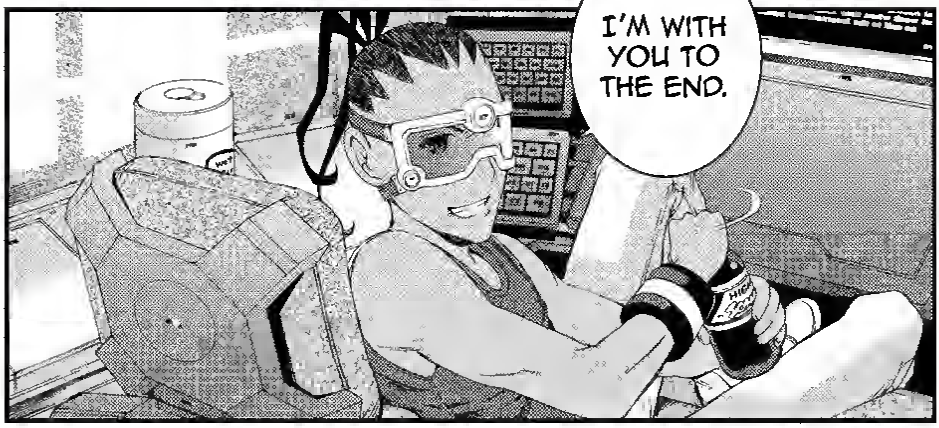
AND HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET TO THE MATSUSHIMA IN THE TIME WE HAVE LEFT...
...WITH ALL THESE DIMENSIONAL FAULT ZONES APPEARING RANDOMLY!

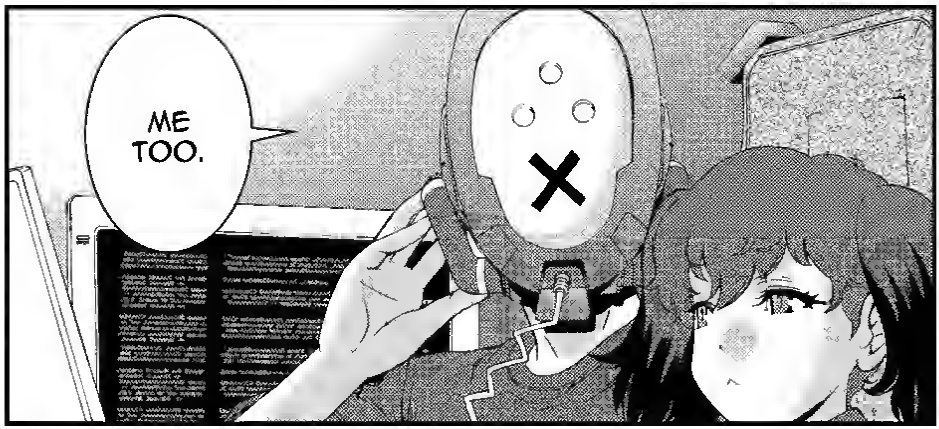

I CAN'T... ABANDON THE CAPTAIN, CAN I?
THEN WHAT ABOUT THE CREW?

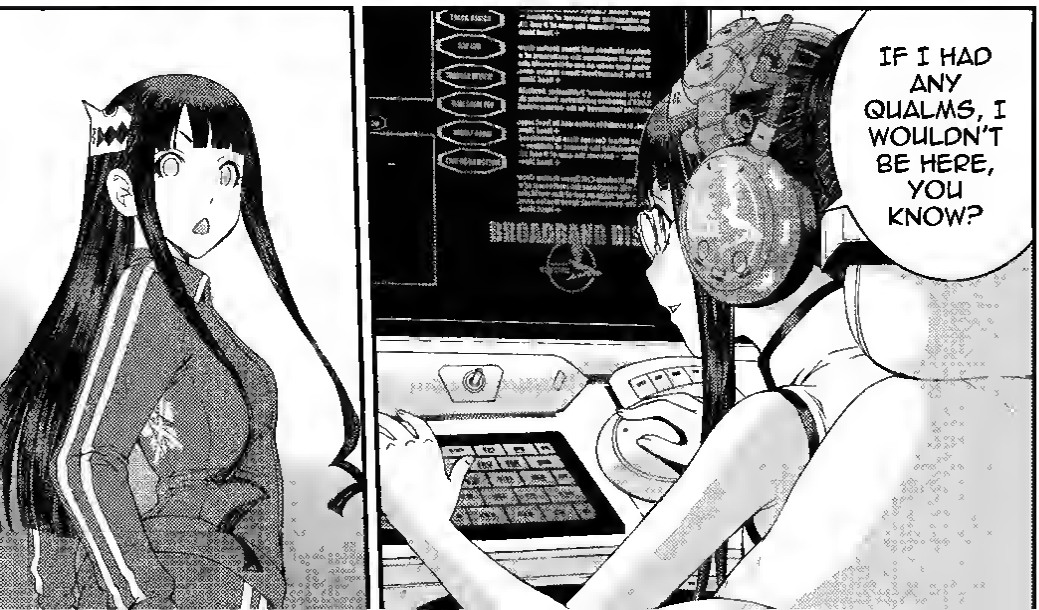
ARE YOU GOING TO PUT THIS CREW...
ARE YOU GOING TO PUT THIS CREW IN DANGER?


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

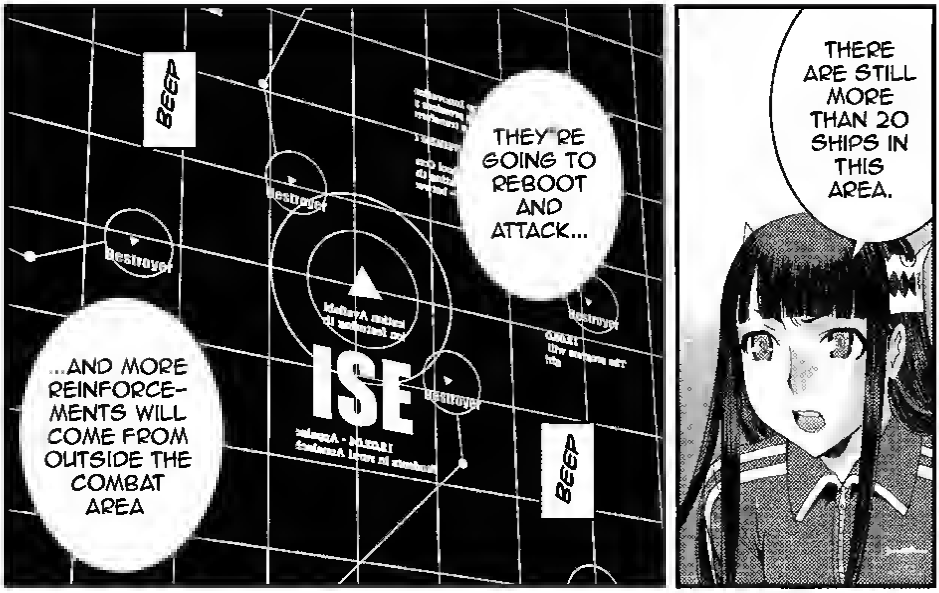
I...
TUNK

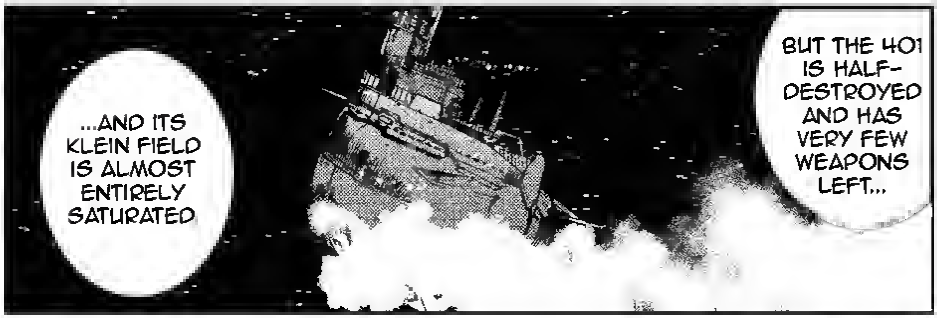

I'M WITH YOU TO THE END.


ME TOO.


IF I HAD ANY QUALMS, I WOULDN'T BE HERE, YOU KNOW?

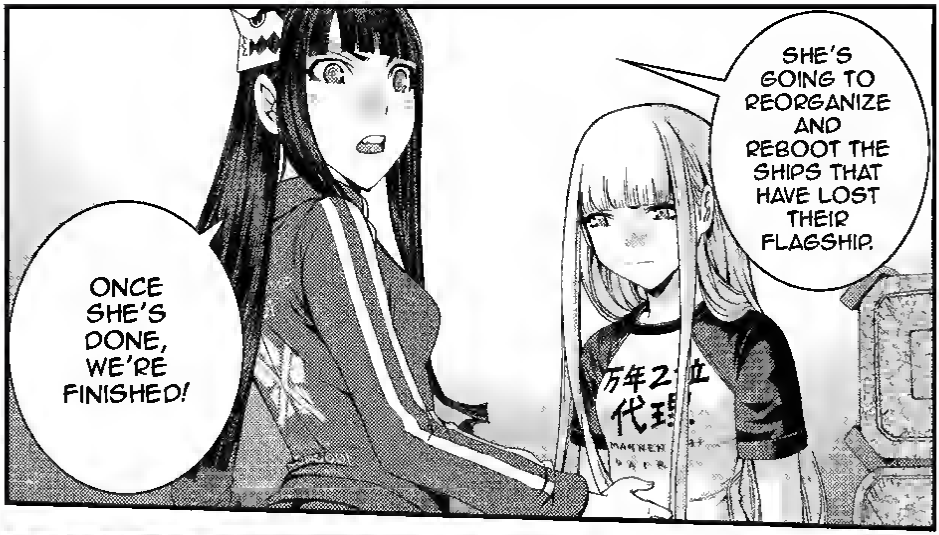
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU HUMANS AT ALL!
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE IF YOU STAY HERE!
カレナ SCRATCH
カレナ SCRATCH
...I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU PEOPLE.
...THAT YOU CAN'T BE RESTARTED?
DOESN'T DEATH MEAN...
...
MITSUSHIMA
WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE TRY.

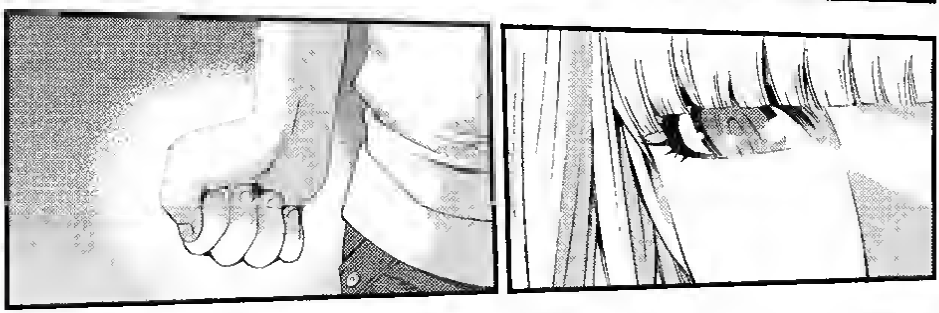

BEEP
Destroyer
Destroyer
Destroyer
Destroyer
ISE
THEY'RE GOING TO REBOOT AND ATTACK...
...AND MORE REINFORCE-MENTS WILL COME FROM OUTSIDE THE COMBAT AREA
BEEP
THERE ARE STILL MORE THAN 20 SHIPS IN THIS AREA.

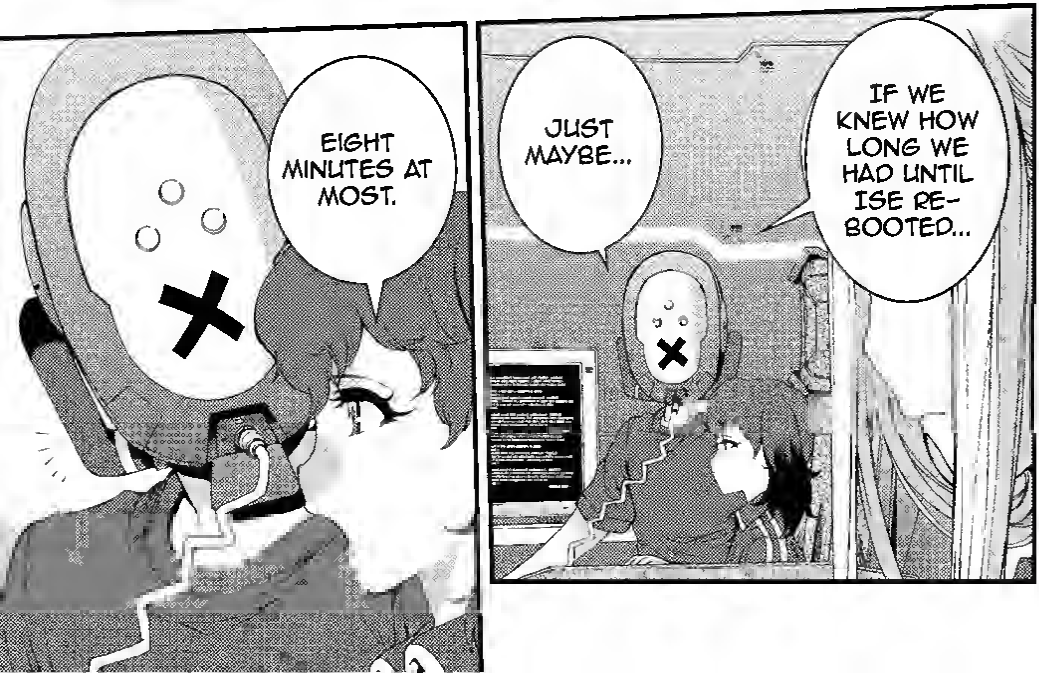

...AND ITS KLEIN FIELD IS ALMOST ENTIRELY SATURATED
BUT THE 401 IS HALF-DESTROYED AND HAS VERY FEW WEAPONS LEFT...

GRAB
IT'S MADNESS!
AND YOU WANT TO TOW A SHIP IN THESE CONDI-TIONS?

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SMARTER THAN ME...
YOU KNOW THIS BETTER THAN ANYONE, 401!
I...
...
HER QUANTUM COMMUNI-CATION SYSTEM IS FUNCTION-ING.
SIGNAL DETECTED FROM LARGE BATTLESHIP ISE.

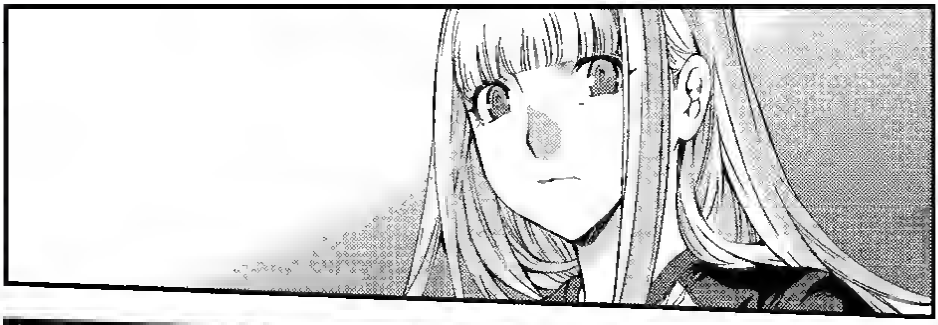

SHE'S GOING TO REORGANIZE AND REBOOT THE SHIPS THAT HAVE LOST THEIR FLAGSHIP.
ONCE SHE'S DONE, WE'RE FINISHED!

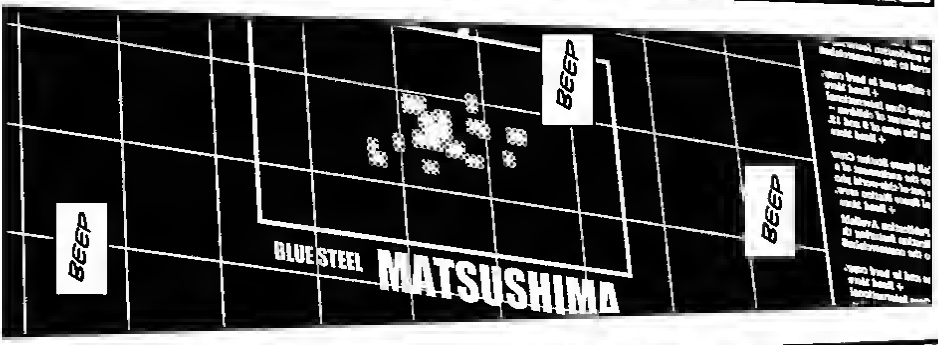


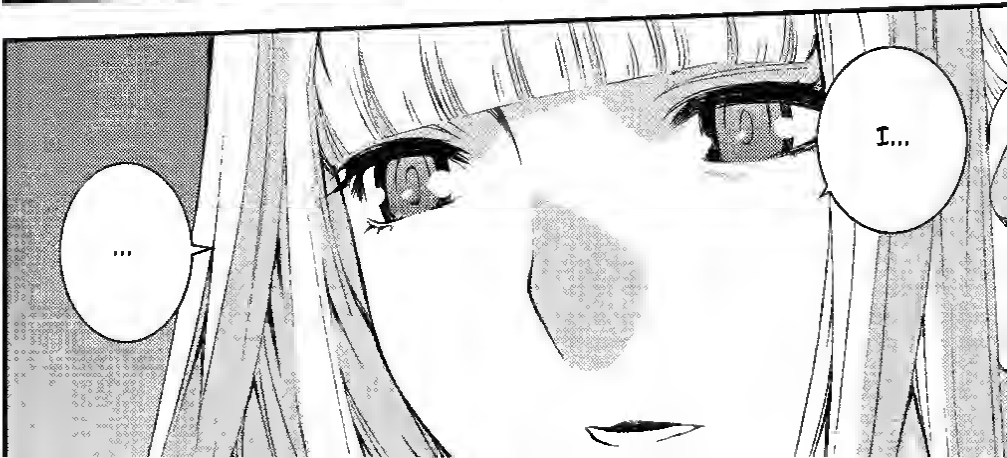

IF WE KNEW HOW LONG WE HAD UNTIL ISE RE-BOOTED...
JUST MAYBE...
EIGHT MINUTES AT MOST.

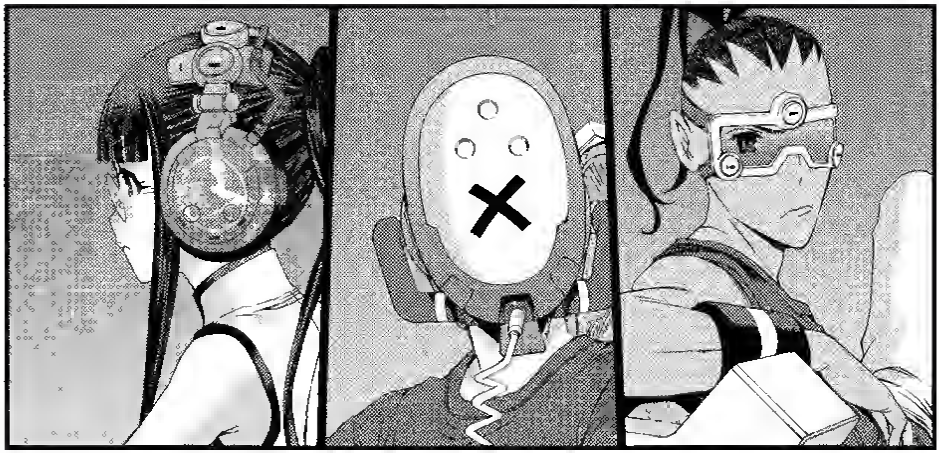
ALL SHE HAS TO DO IS RE-REGISTER ALL SHIPS IN THIS AREA UNDER HER OWN COM-MAND...
...AND GIVE THEM A DEPLOYMENT ORDER.
IT WILL TAKE HER MORE TIME BEFORE SHE CAN BRING EVERYTHING SHE HAS TO BEAR ON US...
...BUT THAT'S ALL SHE NEEDS TO SUMMON A SMALL FLEET.
16 MINUTES UNTIL REINFORCE-MENTS ARRIVE...
...AND EIGHT MINUTES MAX UNTIL THE REBOOT.
THAT AIN'T GOOD.

MATSU-SHIMA'S DESCENT RACE HAS INCREASED SLIGHTLY.
IT'S +1.6 EVERY SECOND.



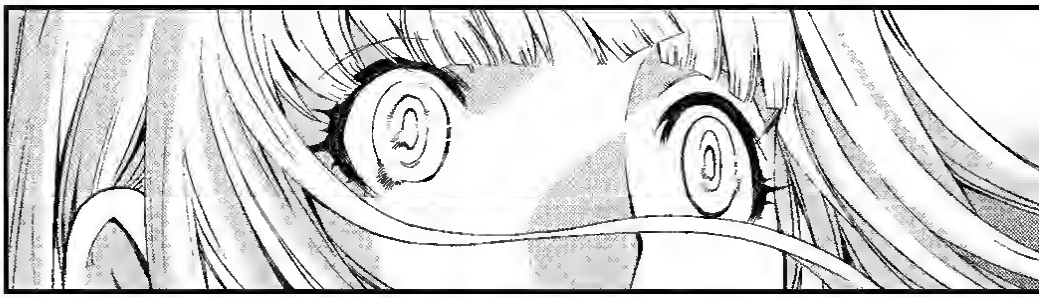

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BLUE STEEL
MATSUSHIMA


I...
...



...
I...
GO TO THE MATSU-SHIMA...
THE 401 IS TO LEAVE THIS AREA IMMEDI-ATELY.
INCOMING MESSAGE FROM THE MATSUSHIMA.
AND FOLLOW THE REST OF THE MISSION PLAN... I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

万年2位
代理
MANNEN NI
PAIRI

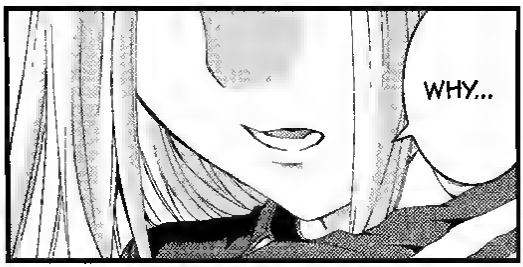


SISTER! THE SITUATION'S BAD!
THE MATSUSHIMA DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE CAPABLE OF VOICE COMMUNICATION.

I'LL FIND CAPTAIN CHIHAYA! I PROMISE!
YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE. AS FOR THE CAPTAIN...

YOU'VE GOTTA GO NOW.
IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS AREA BEFORE REINFORCE-MENTS ARRIVE, GIVEN YOUR PRESENT SPEED...

WHY CAN'T I FIND THE ANSWER?
THE BEST ANSWER...


WHY...

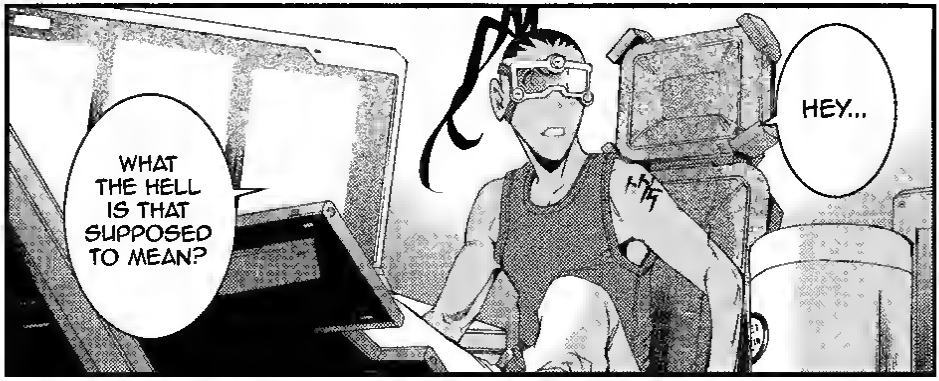
HUH?

ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM THE MATSU-SHIMA.
!!

...!
UM...

...
READ IT.
YES MA'AM.
READING IT NOW.

IONA...
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE IN CHARGE.
...
OVER.


HEY...
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

SO I WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL...
GUNZOU...
CLENCH
...
I-401
CREAK
BEARING 0-0-0
MATSUS
TURN US AROUND.

IONA...
...
THE 401 WILL LEAVE THIS AREA.
FULL SPEED AHEAD.
I RECOMMEND CUTTING OFF YOUR EMOTION SIMULATOR...
...401.

WE'RE STILL UNDER THREAT.
I DON'T WANT...
...TO WASTE ANYTHING.
EVEN IF IT'S...

...PAIN SO GREAT IT THREATENS TO TEAR ME APART.

...EVERYTHING I'VE EXPERIENCED SO FAR...

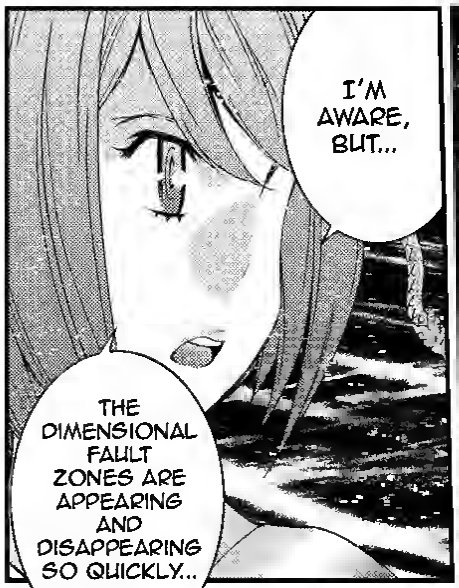
IF I BREAK HERE...

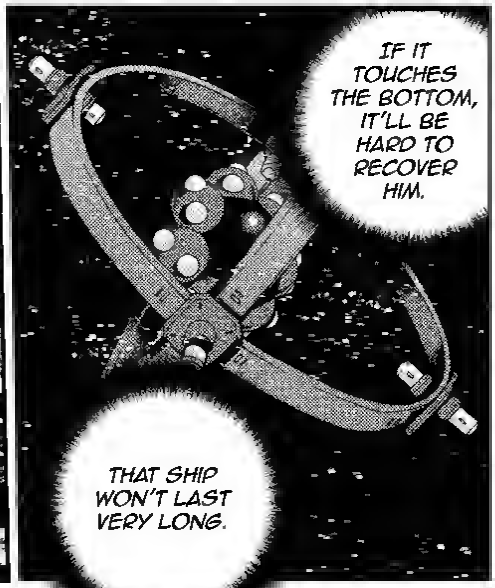
...ALL THE TIME I'VE SPEND WITH GUNZOU... WILL BE WASTED.

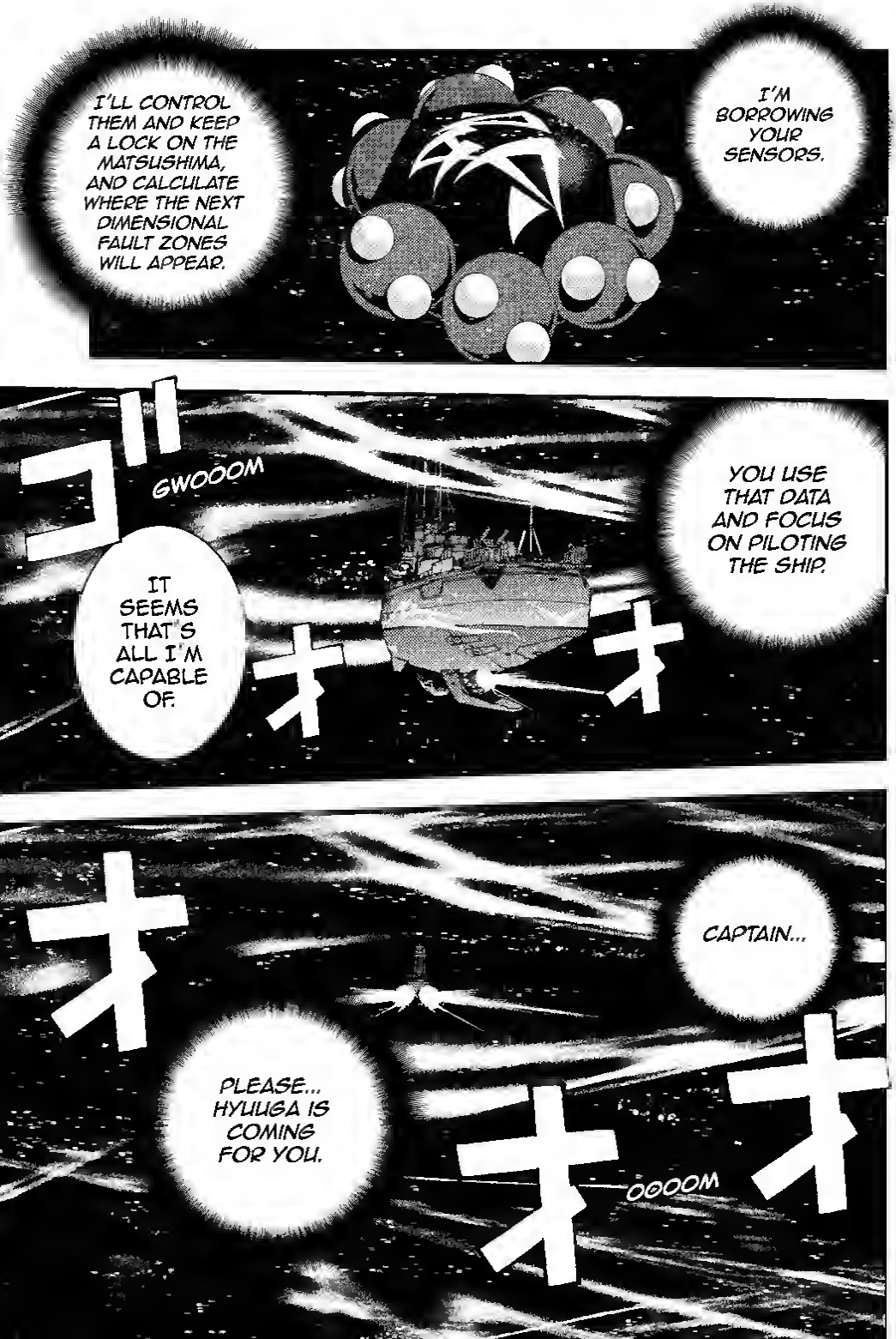
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

THE 401'S CHANGED COURSE.
BEARING 0-0-0.
GWOOOM

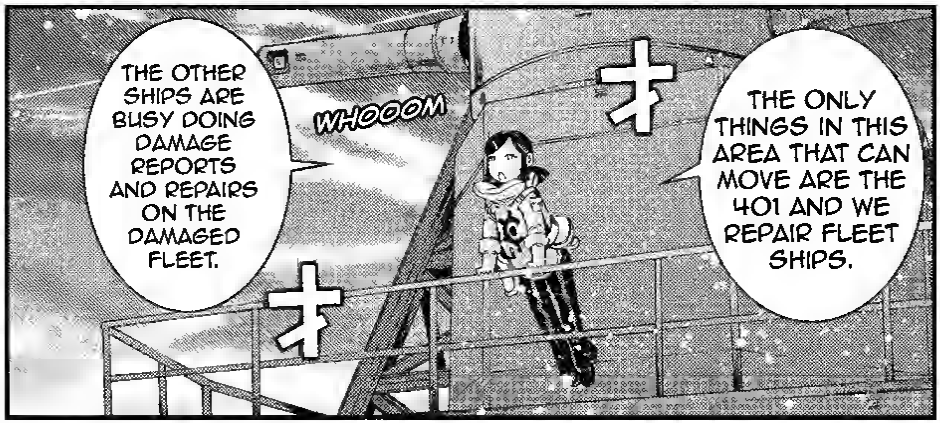
WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO THE MATSU-SHIMA.
SISTER...
HURRY.

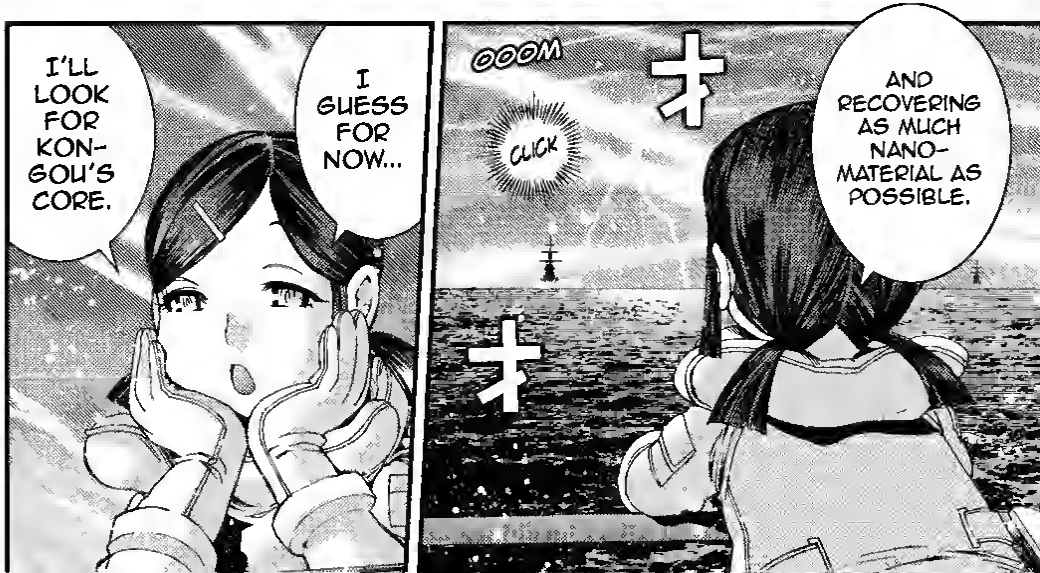

I'M AWARE, BUT...
THE DIMENSIONAL FAULT ZONES ARE APPEARING AND DISAPPEARING SO QUICKLY...


IF IT TOUCHES THE BOTTOM, IT'LL BE HARD TO RECOVER HIM.
THAT SHIP WON'T LAST VERY LONG.


I'LL CONTROL THEM AND KEEP A LOCK ON THE MATSUSHIMA, AND CALCULATE WHERE THE NEXT DIMENSIONAL FAULT ZONES WILL APPEAR.
I'M BORROWING YOUR SENSORS.
GWOOOM
IT SEEMS THAT'S ALL I'M CAPABLE OF.
YOU USE THAT DATA AND FOCUS ON PILOTING THE SHIP.
CAPTAIN...
PLEASE... HYUUGA IS COMING FOR YOU.
OOOOM

SIGH... IF THE FLEET'S STOPPED...
THWOOOM
...THAT MEANS THAT KONGOU'S WORST-CASE SCENARIO WAS THE OUTCOME.


THE ONLY THINGS IN THIS AREA THAT CAN MOVE ARE THE 401 AND WE REPAIR FLEET SHIPS.
WHOOOM
THE OTHER SHIPS ARE BUSY DOING DAMAGE REPORTS AND REPAIRS ON THE DAMAGED FLEET.


AND RECOVERING AS MUCH NANO-MATERIAL AS POSSIBLE.
OOOM
CLICK
I GUESS FOR NOW...
I'LL LOOK FOR KON-GOU'S CORE.

I...
I'M NOT REALLY GOOD AT THIS STUFF, THOUGH...